

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515-2207

September 20, 2023

Martha Williams  
Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Williams,

I am writing to bring to your attention a matter of significant concern regarding the recent discovery of silver carp environmental DNA (eDNA) in the St. Joseph River in southwest Michigan. As the representative of Michigan's 5th Congressional District, I am deeply committed to the preservation and protection of our Great Lakes and the St. Joseph River watershed.

The presence of silver carp eDNA in the St. Joseph River is a troubling development given the steps Congress has taken to prevent the spread of invasive carp into the Great Lakes and the importance of the St. Joseph River watershed to Michigan's residents. This invasive species poses a substantial threat to the native species and the overall health of the Great Lakes region and its economy.

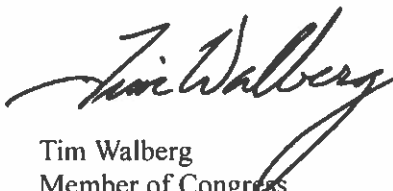
I kindly request a briefing on the following:

1. **Testing Results:** The testing data and subsequent reports on the trace within the St. Joseph River. It is critical that Congress be provided with updated reporting on when and where the positive test occurred, along with the subsequent testing that USFWS is completing.
2. **Current Prevention Efforts:** Current efforts being taken following the positive test announced on September 7, along with an explanation of the role USFWS is taking in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to prevent the invasion of silver carp or other invasive species.

The Great Lakes ecosystem is an invaluable resource, and we must protect it for current and future generations. This is of utmost importance to my constituents, the entire state of Michigan, and the Great Lakes region. I encourage you to continue to collaborate closely with state agencies and the MDNR to develop a comprehensive strategy for detection, prevention, and control of potential silver carp in the St. Joseph River.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies, and local stakeholders to mitigate the potential impact of silver carp on our Great Lakes and the St. Joseph River.

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress  
Michigan's 5th Congressional District